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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Shigeru SHIRAI et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/596,355 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
(National Stage of PCT/JP2004/018389)

I.A. Filed : December 9, 2004 Confirmation No. : 5577

For : HEAT EXCHANGER AND WASHING APPARATUS COMPRISING
THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,
Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner the following information.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with
respect to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2004/018389, of which the
present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. Copies of the International
Search Report (in Japanese and English) have been filed concurrently with the present
application and should thus have already been brought to the attention of the Examiner.

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-329407, together with
an English language Abstract of the same;

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- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. SHO 59-65338, together with a partial English language translation of the same;
- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-094175, together with an English language Abstract of the same;
- (4) Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. SHO 54-109943, together with a partial English language translation of the same; and
- (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-277054, together with an English language Abstract of the same, and patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,516,143 to TOYA et al., which issued on February 4, 2003.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the international claims by the International Examiner, is set forth in the International Search Report.

Applicants further submit the following documents:

- (6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-279786, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that the Japanese document is cited on page 3 of the specification of the above-captioned application;
- (7) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0151458 to SHIRAI et al., which was published on July 13, 2006; and
- (8) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/566,977 to NAKAMURA et al., which was filed on February 2, 2006.

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Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii) and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patent, patent application publication and patent application are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Also, when the above-noted pending application is published, the Examiner is respectfully requested to list its publication number on a PTO 1449 Form (or PTO 892 Form) to confirm consideration thereof.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, including the noted English language Abstracts and translations, are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Shigeru SHIRAI et al.

Linda J. Hodge
Reg. #47,348

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda J. Hodge", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

September 18, 2006
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Application No.
10/596,355

Group
Unknown

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